

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/922,562

Applicant(s)

ARLING, PAUL D.

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 2/18/05 and interview of 6/6/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 54-57, 66, 67 and 69-77, renumbered as, 1-4, 5, 6, 7-15
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gary Jarosik (reg. no. 35,906) on June 6, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 58-65 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims **54-57,66,67,69-77** are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to disclose a controlling device comprising: a plurality of keys comprising a first control group of keys and a second control group of keys;

a first device type indicator of a first plurality of device type indicators, wherein the first plurality of device type indicators correspond to devices the first control group of keys may be set to control and the first device type indicator is visually associated with the first control group of keys, whereby a user may readily discern which device the first

control group of keys is set to control based on the first device type indicator visually associated with the first control group of keys;

a second device type indicator of a second plurality of device type indicators, wherein the second plurality of device type indicators correspond to devices the second control group of keys may be set to control and the second device type indicator is visually associated with the second control group of keys, and a user may readily discern which device the second control group of keys is set to control based on the second device type indicator visually associated with the first control group of keys;

a first plurality of device type keys corresponding to devices the first control group of keys may be set to control upon selection of one of the first plurality of device type keys; a second plurality of device type keys corresponding to devices the second control group of keys may be set to control upon election of one of the second plurality of device type keys; and wherein the first plurality and the second laterality of device type keys are soft keys and wherein the first device type indicator is different from the second device type indicator, as in claim **54**;

A remote control comprising: a first control group of keys set to control one of a plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user which of the plurality of devices the first control group of keys is set to control; a second control group of keys set to control one of a plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user which of the plurality of devices the second control group of keys is set to control; means for setting the first control group of keys to a different one of the plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user a selection comprising the plurality of devices from which the user may select the

Art Unit: 2614

different one device; and means for indicating to a user in which master mode the remote control is set; wherein the means for indicating which device is controlled by the first control group of keys, the means for indicating which device is controlled by the second control group of keys, and the means for indicating the master mode are adapted to operate simultaneously, as in claim **66**;

A controlling device, comprising: a plurality of function keys including a first group of function keys actuable to command volume functions of a plurality of different appliances and a second group of function keys actuatable to command tuning functions of a plurality of different appliances', a plurality of device keys actuable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the first group of function keys and actuable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the second group of function keys; a first device type indicator visually associated with the first group of function keys to indicate to a user to which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the first group of function keys; and a second device type indicator visually associated with the second group of function keys for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the second group of function keys: and a third device type indicator for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances will be commanded upon actuation of a function key other than a function key selected from the first Group of functions keys and the second group of function keys, as in claim **67**;

A controlling device comprising, a plurality of function keys including a first group of function keys actuable to command volume functions of a plurality of different appliances and a second group of function keys actuatable to command tuning functions of a plurality of different appliances; a plurality of device keys actuable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the first group of function keys and actuatable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the second group of function keys; a first device type indicator visually associated with the first group of function keys to indicate to a user to which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the first group of function keys; and a second device type indicator visually associated with the second group of function keys for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the second group of function keys; wherein the first device type indicator is displayed in a touch screen in a location visually linked to the first group of function keys and the second device type indicator is displayed in the touch screen in a location visually linked to the second group of function keys and wherein the first group of function keys and the second group of function keys are contemporaneously available for actuation by a user and the first device type indicator and the second device type indicator are contemporaneously displayed, as in claim 75;

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571)272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMN
June 6, 2005



PAULOS M. NATNAEL
PATENT EXAMINER